

## Santa Barbara County Public Works Department Flood Control **(4)** Water Agency

November 20, 2007

Ms. Tracie Billington California Department of Water Resources P. O. Box 942836 Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: Comments on DWR/SWRCB's IRWMP Proposition 50 Round 2 Process

Dear Ms. Billington:

Santa Barbara County Water Agency, on behalf of the Cooperating Partners, would like to submit comments regarding the Proposition 50 Round 2 process. The Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning process in Santa Barbara County has been managed by the Cooperating Partners, consisting of twenty-nine agencies and districts with responsibility for water management.

The Santa Barbara Region was pleased to be included on the Round 2 Step 1 Call Back List and have the opportunity to compete for the available Proposition 50 Round 2 IRWM funds. As a region within the southern half of the State, we would like to comment on the level of funding needed in southern California and the current Round 2 grant application deadline of January 15, 2008.

The Cooperating Partners understand that to date approximately \$235 million already has been committed to the northern half of the State while only \$157 million has been committed to southern California, and that only \$64.5 million remained after Round 1 grant awards. Once \$12.8 million (AB 303 obligation) is subtracted, there remains approximately \$51.7 million to be distributed in Round 2. The Santa Barbara Region believes that entire amount should be reserved for southern California.

If the entire \$51.7 million goes to southern California, it would mean total funding for southern California would reach \$208.7 million with total funding for northern California at \$235 million. That still leaves southern California's funding level approximately \$26.3 million below that of northern California. In order to comply with the 40%/40% northern and southern California split required by bond language, southern California must receive at least \$43 million. We believe the entire \$51.7 million should be directed to southern California because it was clearly the intent of

both the voters who approved Proposition 50 and the legislature to fund both parts of the State equally.

Finally, we would like to request that the grant application deadline of January 15, 2008 be extended by two weeks to January 29, 2008. The Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays fall right in the middle of the application preparation time making an already abbreviated and tight schedule even tighter. We would appreciate the additional time so that the grant application can be completed and reviewed in a thorough and comprehensive manner.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Len Fleckenstein for RA Robert Almy, Manager

Santa Barbara County Water Agency